

DURHAM CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau

Wednesday, August 20, 2014, 3:15pm.

Members Present:

☐ Zoila Airall
☒ Dorothy Browne
☐ Margaret DeMott
☒ Daniel Ellison
☒ Peter Holsapple
☒ Medina Johnson
☒ Frank Konhaus
☒ Renee Leverty
☒ Tess Mangum Ocana
☒ Cynthia Mebane-Watts
☒ Chris Ogden
☒ Lou Rollins

OEWD Staff Present:

☐ Grace Dzidzienyo
☒ Peter Coyle

Also present: Angela Lee, Sherry DeVries, Meera Chakravarthy

Chair Renee Leverty called the meeting to order at 3:16pm.

Leverty welcomed the new Board members. All present introduced themselves.

Cynthia Mebane-Watts moved to approve the minutes of the July 16 meeting of the Board. Frank Konhaus seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leverty reported on the need for the Board to appoint officers to serve until June 30, 2015. After discussion, Chris Ogden made a motion to approve Frank Konhaus and Lou Rollins as members at large of the Executive Committee. Dan Ellison seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Konhaus made a motion to approve Renee Leverty as Board Chair and Cynthia Mebane-Watts as Vice Chair. Ogden seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leverly reported on the need to appoint three members of the Board to serve on the Public Art Committee until June 30, 2015. Chris Ogden provided an overview of recent activity by the committee and the committee's responsibilities. After discussion, Leverly made a motion to approve Chris Ogden, Dan Ellison and Dorothy Browne to serve on the committee, with Ogden serving as committee chair. Mebane-Watts seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sherry DeVries reported that the Durham Arts Council's Centerfest will be held on September 20 and 21. She asked Board members to volunteer to collect money at the gates to the festival. She reported that 72 performing groups are scheduled to perform on six stages and that there will be 140 artists displaying and selling their works. It will be the largest Centerfest ever.

DeVries reported that the SmART Initiative grant project is led by the Durham Arts Council, with 26 public and private partners as well as the North Carolina Arts Council. She provided a basic description of the project for the Board's new members and reported that an artist-led design team has been selected, through a competitive process, to consult on the project. The name of the team selected will be announced in the next week.

She reported that the North Carolina Arts Council will provide a \$30,000 grant for the next phase of the project planning and that a matching amount of \$30,000 needs to be raised from other sources. To date she reported that \$6,000 of the matching funds have been raised.

DeVries requested to give an annual report of the Durham Arts Council at the next Board meeting.

Peter Holsapple asked DeVries about the problem raised by the railroad tracks in making the SmART Initiative corridor pedestrian friendly. She replied that this would be an area that the consultants will be investigating and on which they will be making recommendations. Dorothy Browne suggested that the consultants be encouraged to give serious consideration to the special needs of senior citizens as pedestrians.

DeVries departed from the meeting, as she will be under consideration for appointment to one of the at-large seats on the Public Art Committee, to be voted on later in the meeting.

Mebane-Watts reported that the Festival Committee was set up to review the success and needs of local festivals. The committee has drafted and tested a survey, which will be sent to festival sponsors. She discussed the committee's belief of a need for more City staff to assist festival planners in navigating all of the various rules and departments involved in the use of City property for festivals as well as the various permits needed. She reported that a Duke student intern will be assisting the committee.

Mebane Watts, who co-chairs the Board's Funding Committee with DeVries, reported that the committee is developing ideas for use of remaining Cultural Master Plan Implementation Funds. One item under consideration would be to encourage the creation

of cultural program as or greater access for handicapped children. Another is the possibility of recommending a full time staff position for arts and culture.

Committee chairs were asked to send Leverty and Peter Coyle the times and places for meetings as they are scheduled.

Leverty opened discussion of the appointment of members at large to serve on the Public Art Committee. Coyle had provided copies of all applications to the Board members. After discussion of the applicants Frank Konhaus made a motion to appoint Mark Hough, Charlene Reiss, Julie Rhodes and Kathy Bartlett to serve on the committee until June 30, 2016 and to appoint Gail Williams to serve until June 30, 2015. Tess Mangum Ocana seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.